(NMDC) for 500 mandays (valued at approximately US $ 330,000) to carry out a techno-economic study in association with Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Ltd.(MECON) for increasing the production in Bailadila Iron Ore mines. The techno-economic study has since been completed. Subsequently, NMDC also engaged M/s Metchem Canada, for rendering consultancy services for 300 mandays (valued approximately at US $ 200,000) to assist in preparing Detailed Project Report for new mines in Bailadila sector. Services of foreign consultants are engaged only when necessary and when such consultancy of the required level is not available within the country.

Steel Export by IISCO

1384. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "IISCO" sets export target of 75000 tonnes steel published in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated the 25th April, 1993;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of products from the IISCO have been adversely affected due to delay in its modernisation programmes etc.;

(c) whether Government would now take effective measures to run and manage the company instead of its privatisation; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. IISCO has received a number of export enquiries. Already one export order for 4500 tonnes of structurals for shipment to China has been received and other orders are under process of finalisation. In case, the sluggish domestic demand continues, IISCO has plans to export around 75000 tonnes of Iron and Steel during current financial year.

(b) It is possible that if its facilities are revamped, products of IISCO could have better acceptability in International Market provided that they are competitive in price.

(c) and (d) In view of constraints of resources, Government had constituted a Committee of Experts (COE) to obtain bids for private participation in IISCO with the objective of modernising/expanding IISCO to a crude steel capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, in a cost-and-time effective manner. The COE had received 3 bids; (a) from M/s Mukand Ltd. and M/s. Usha Rectifier Corporation (India) Ltd. envisaging participation in the equity and modernisation of IISCO; (b) from MITSUI of Japan offering financial assistance to meet foreign exchange requirements. The recommendations made by the COE are under consideration and Government have not so far taken any decision in this regard.

देश में चुंगी प्रणाली समाप्त किया जाना

@1385. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :**
डा० नौनिहाल सिंह :
श्री सोम पाल :

क्या **शहरी विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूरे देश में चुंगी प्रणाली खत्म कर दी गई है;

@पूर्वतः अतारांकित प्रश्न 370, 28 अप्रैल, 1993 से स्थानान्तरित ।